# Lawyer Says the Leader of Cult Had 'Lost His Reason'

By WALLACE TURNER

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SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22 — The Rev. Jim Jones was described today as having "lost his reason" by Charles Garry, one of his lawyers and once one of the strongest supporters of the People's Temple, the cult group led by Mr. Jones.

Donald Freed, an associate of Mark Lane, another of the late Mr. Jones's lawyers, said in a separate statement:

"Jones became a devil. There is this kind of mentality — if you cannot be God, you don't just fall back to the rank and file; you become the great sinner. If you win, you're Moses; if you lose, you're Charles Manson."

Mr. Garry and Mr. Lane were at the Jonestown, Guyana, settlement on Saturday with the party led by Representative Leo J. Ryan, who was among five people murdered at the airstrip that serves the comune.

Mr. Garry and Mr. Lane were not at the airstrip, but were witnesses at the commune to the start of the mass suicide that claimed more than 400 lives, including that of Mr. Jones.

### Eyes Reddened, Voice Breaking

At a news conference here today, Mr. Garry said he learned of the suicides from two armed members of the People's Temple.

"They told us," he said, his eyes reddened and his voice breaking, "'We are going to die for revolutionary protest as an expression against racism and fascism.'"

"They hugged us both," said Mr. Garry. "Lane asked, 'How do we get out of here?' And they told us how to go over the hill and through what they called the Bush and hit the road that would take us to the airstrip."

Just before he learned that there was a suicide plan in the making, Mr. Garry said, he noticed the first guns he had seen in his three trips to Jonestown. He said he asked Mr. Jones to let someone speak to the people who were sitting silent and pensive before the pavilion where Mr. Ryan and the others had appeared.

### 'A Beautiful Experiment'

"Jim said 'Charles, let them sit there. Let them think,'" Mr. Garry said. Within a short time the poisonous mixture of cyanide and Kool-Aid was being dispensed to them.

Mr. Garry insisted today that the Jonestown experiment was "a beautiful thing," and denied that Mr. Jones resisted people leaving. He said Mr. Jones had admitted the reporters who accompanied Mr. Ryan because Mr. Garry wanted the high qualities he saw in the commune to be shown to the American people.

Eleven members of the People's Temple were present at today's news conference. They denied they had been coerced into signing compromising documents, denied that an assassination squad had been organized by Mr. Jones, and said that no threats had been made against children to insure compliance with Mr. Jones's orders.

They said they planned to continue the anti-racist, humanitarian projects of the Temple as it was operated under the leadership of Mr. Jones.

Mr. Freed is the West Coast director of Mr. Lane's Citizens' Committee of Inquiry. He said in a telephone interview today that he spent six days at the commune after Aug. 18.

Mr. Freed said he believed the settlement broke apart because of suspicion among its top command that one of them was an agent of outside opponents who had been members but had since broken away.

Mr. Freed went to Jonestown because Mr. Garry had persuaded Mr. Jones that someone on the outside should visit and report on what they saw.

Mr. Freed said he had access to "a high level defector" from the sect's inner councils, whose identity he would not provide.

Associated Press

In Vidalia, Ga., Shirley Humphrey attends funeral services for her husband, Don Harris, the NBC correspondent slain in Guyana. With her are daughters Laura, left, and Claire, and a son, Jeffrey.